

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1           1.       A system for remotely building an image to manufacture information  
2 handling systems, the system comprising:  
3           an interface operable to accept image parameters from a builder through the  
4           Internet;  
5           an image library having plural image components;  
6           an image creation engine operable to apply the image parameters to select  
7           associated image components from the image library to build an image  
8           conforming with the parameters; and  
9           image build and test systems interfaced with the image creation engine and  
10           operable to accept the library components to generate an information  
11           handling system having the built image.

1           2.       The system of Claim 1 wherein the image build and test systems  
2 comprise hardware information handling systems built to accept the image.

1           3.       The system of Claim 1 wherein the image build and test systems  
2 comprise software virtual information handling systems built to accept the image.

1           4.       The system of Claim 1 wherein the image library comprises  
2 information handling system manufacturer defined image components and builder  
3 defined image components.

1           5.       The system of Claim 4 wherein the manufacturer defined image  
2 components comprise one or more of operating systems, base images and  
3 applications.

1           6.       The system of Claim 4 wherein the builder defined image components  
2 comprise one or more of builder-uploaded files, applications, and custom settings.

1           7.       The system of Claim 6 wherein the builder defined custom settings  
2       comprise hard disc drive partitions, BIOS settings, network settings, desktop settings,  
3       system names and registry entries.

1           8.       The system of Claim 1 further comprising an image test engine  
2       operable to accept test commands communicated through the Internet and to apply the  
3       test commands to the image build and test systems.

1           9.       The system of Claim 1 further comprising an image promotion engine  
2       operable to communicate a copy of the built image to an information handling system  
3       manufacturing site for manufacture of information handling systems having the built  
4       image.

1           10.      The system of Claim 1 further comprising an image management  
2       engine operable to accept builder defined image components through the Internet and  
3       to copy the builder defined image components to the image library.

1           11.      A method for remotely building an image to manufacture information  
2       handling systems, the method comprising:  
3               accessing a library of plural image components by a customer through a  
4               remote network communication;  
5               selecting image components for inclusion in manufactured information  
6               handling systems;  
7               defining an image manifest with the selected components;  
8               building an image from the image manifest on a test information handling  
9               system; and  
10              copying the built image from the test information handling system for use in  
11              manufacture of the information handling systems.

1           12.      The method of Claim 11 further comprising:  
2       promoting the built image to an information handling system manufacture  
3       environment; and

4 copying the built image to a manufactured information handling system.

1 13. The method of Claim 11 further comprising:  
2 accessing the test information handling system by the customer through the  
3 remote network connection; and  
4 testing operation of the image on the test information handling system.

1 14. The method of Claim 13 wherein the test information handling system  
2 comprises a hardware information handling system having the image loaded.

1 15. The method of Claim 13 wherein the test information handling system  
2 comprises a virtual information handling system modeled in network-accessible  
3 memory.

1 16. The method of Claim 11 further comprising:  
2 uploading to the image library from the customer through the remote network  
3 communications one or more custom image components; and  
4 including the custom image components in the image manifest.

1 17. The method of Claim 16 wherein the custom image components  
2 comprise one or more custom applications operable to perform a desired function on a  
3 manufactured information handling system.

1 18. The method of Claim 16 wherein the custom image components  
2 comprise custom information handling system settings.

1 19. The method of Claim 18 wherein the custom information handling  
2 system settings comprise one or more of hard disc drive partitions, BIOS settings,  
3 network settings, desktop settings, system names and registry entries.

1 20. The method of Claim 11 further comprising:  
2 storing the built image in the library; and  
3 creating a new image by editing the stored built image.